A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, July 10. 1708.

THO' I was remote from hence when it happen'd, and therefore it comes out late, yet I cannot help ſetting Pen to Paper upon the melancholly Subject of the Death of my Lord *Beilhaven*.

And let no Man wonder that this comes from me, who perhaps as warmly as any Body thwarted this Noble Perſon in the Oppoſition he made to the Union, and perhaps uſed him with Freedom enough; but let ſuch People underſtand from this Noble Perſon, that it is eaſie for Men of Honour to diſtinguiſh between Difference in Argument and Perſonal Difference, and I count it my Honour to ſay, that *tho' in debating thoſe Matters I never ſtack'd my Hand in oppoſing his Lordſhip's Opinion*, yet his Lordſhip knew how to differ in Opinion without Perſonal Reſentment, and to admit a Man to differ ſo alſo with him; and as I had the Honour to converſe with his Lordſhip both by Letters and by Word of Mouth, and that all the Remains of that Debate was vaniſh'd, I think it a Debt due to his Memory, to ſet his Character right in the Eyes of good Men, now it has pleas'd GOD to take him away, before he had Opportunity to do it, *as he purpoſed to do*, for himſelf.

To make way for this, I cannot but repeat two Paſſages, in the firſt Letters I had the Honour to receive from, and write to this noble Perſon, after our Difference about

about the Union; in which his generous Temper will very much appear.

His Lordship's Words are these.

—I confess, I thought you gave your self too much Liberty in bantering Me and my Speech in your Writings, especially in your Introduction to that of my Lord *H———ms*; yet by what I have seen of your other Writings, you are of the same Sentiments with me as to Government, &c. and, *except in the Matter of Uriah*, you are a Man after my own Heart.

And I am so well pleased with some of your late *Reviews*, with Relation to the Affairs of *Scotland*, and particularly your *Ænigma* or Allegory of the Widow, that I freely forgive you all your former Sins of ignorance.——

In my Answer I told his Lordship among other Things,

That I should not enter upon any Defence of the former Disputes I had with his Lordship, because I would not lessen the Value I put upon his Lordship's Remission—And so our short Debates entirely ended.

I mention this only to show the World, how a Man of Honour will treat the Men he differs with, and after having paid this Homage and Acknowledgement to the Generosity and Goodness of Disposition, which this noble Person was Master of, I leave it as a useful Observation to those, who wanting Temper as well as Manners, can never dispute without Heat, argue without Railing, or speak to their Opponents but in opprobrious, vile and filthy Language—— Let those *Observators* whom the Coat fits wear it.

In my last Progress to *Scotland*, I arriv'd at *Edinburgh*, a few Days after his Lordship was confin'd in the Castle, whither I went to wait on him; I found him indeed very much concern'd at his Confinement—— and the more, *that to use his Lordship's own Expression*, he was number'd with Transgressors—— That he should be confin'd as suspected in a Cause he had always abhorr'd, had early appear'd against, and had been formerly put in the same Prison for opposing—In another of his Lordship's Letters to me before I came to *Scotland*, his Lordship has this Expression, *'Tis now 27 Years since I had the Honour to be Prisoner in this very Place for opposing a Popish Successor in the Parliament 1681, when the Successor himself was upon the Throne representing his Brother.* This made it seem very hard to his Lordship to be mix'd with a Sort of People he had always appear'd against, and stuck a little too close to him.

When I waited on his Lordship in the Castle of *Edinburgh*, he broke out in some warm Complaints upon this very Head, recited to me, how early he had appear'd in *Scotland* against the Tyranny of Popish Power, even when other People were afraid to do it; how zealous he had been for the Settlement of the Church of *Scotland*, how instrumental in the Revolution, how both in Parliament and out, in publick and private, he had always adhered to the Presbyterian Interest, had opposed Tyranny and K. *James*, both in the Court and in the Field, had assisted to depose him, and assisted to keep him out at the Hazard of his Life, having commanded the Cavalry at the Fight at *Gilly-cranky*, and it was very hard to single him out, &c. as suspected of joyning with those he had so avowedly appear'd against.

I endeavour'd to calm his Lordship's Spirits upon that Head, told him it was his Lordship's Misfortune to have been a profess'd Opposer of the Union, in the Management of which all the Party that now attempted our Liberties unhappily join'd, and that his Lordship only happening among 'em suffer'd for being found in bad Company, but that even the Government it self was forward to hope his Lordship was clear of any Guilt in it; I endeavour'd to reconcile his Lordship to the present Precaution the Government was oblig'd to take for immediate Security, in which tho' innocent Persons might suffer by way of Reflection, yet none but the Guilty could suffer by way of Punishment.

His Lordship readily acknowledg'd the Necessity, Prudence and Justice of the Government, in securing the Persons of all that

that were ſuſpected, only regretted that he was number'd among the Perſons ſuſpected——*I am here*, ſays his Lordſhip in the laſt quoted Letter to me, *in Cuſtody with* Three *Papiſts*, Five *Non-Jurants*, *and* One *who may be reckoned worſe than any of the other, becauſe of his Treachery in King* William's *Service*; *I meet with the ſame Meaſure and the ſame Treatment and am the only Perſon who having been always faithful to the preſent Government, am to have my Fame and Reputation blaſted, by being number'd amongſt the Tranſgreſſors*———

I hint this on two Accounts, firſt to teſtifie in his Lordſhip's Name, and from his own Mouth, that his Lordſhip did not at all reflect upon the Government for the Precaution uſed in Taking up the Heads of the *Jacobite* Party, or of the Popiſh Party at ſuch a time as that, but that his Lordſhip thought the Experience of his Behaviour for 20 Years might have freed him from Suſpicion, or elſe at leaſt have procured him ſome Diſtinction; and therefore his Lordſhip in the Letter above examines, what was the proper Characteriſtick of ſuſpected Perſons, ſuch as *Papiſts*, *Non Jurants*, *Epiſcopalians*, or new Converts to either— And *how then*, ſays his Lordſhip, *comes the Lord* Belhaven *to be ſecured, who never could be thought of in any of theſe, who was all the Winter preceding the Revolution in* Holland *with the Prince of* Orange, *was with the firſt in the Revolution*—*And one of the firſt entruſted with Military Command after it, being eſpecially honour'd with the Command of the Horſe againſt the Viſcount of* Dundee, *who has had the Honour to ſerve her Majeſty and her Royal Predeceſſor in Council in Treaſury, in Exchequer and in ſeveral other Offices; who had the Honour not only to be the Taker, but among the Number of the Makers of ſuch Oaths and Acts from time to time, as were judg'd neceſſary for the Security of the preſent Settlement, and not the leaſt forward to make them— Where then, ſays his Lordſhip, does the Suſpicion lie?*

I endeavour'd to reconcile his Lordſhip's Thoughts to the Caſe, as a Diſaſter he ought to lay to the Door of his vigorous Oppoſition of the Union, and his falling unhappily into the Company and Concert of the *Jacobite* Party in that Affair—And particularly comforted him with the News of his going to *England*, which his Lordſhip at firſt rogretted very much; but when he came to examine into, was more ſatified about: I reminded his Lordſhip of the Arbitrary Proceedings in his own Country, in Caſes of meer Suſpicion of Crime, and how by the Union his Lordſhip enjoy'd the Privilege of an *Engliſh* Nobleman, that he could not be try'd but by the Suffrage of the *Britiſh* Peerage, and that his Lordſhip enjoy'd this from the Union—His Lordſhip readily acknowledg'd, he thought the Life of a Noble Man more ſecure now than before—but was extreamly ſollicitous about what Treatment he ſhould meet with in *England*— I had the Honour to aſſure his Lordſhip, I will not ſay prophetickly, but from an Aſſurance of his Lordſhip's Innocence, and Her Majeſty's unbiaſs'd Juſtice, that whereas no Information could come in againſt his Lordſhip, he would meet with all the Clemency and Goodneſs, which her Majeſty ſhew'd to all her innocent Subjects without Diſtinction, and would be immediately admitted to Bail——This ſomewhat allay'd his Lordſhip's Concern, which had been chiefly raiſed from Reports of the Priſoners being committed to the *Tower*, during the QUEEN's Pleaſure, without Examination or Trial, by Vertue of the Act of Parliament.

His Lordſhip regretted exceedingly the Diſſolution of the Council in *Scotland*, from whom proper Diſtinctions of Perſons might have been expected according to former Behaviour, which could be judg'd of better there, than at the Diſtance which the Adminiſtration now remain'd at— And I have a long Complaint againſt that Alteration by me under his Lordſhip's Hand.

At his Parting from *Edinburgh*, I waited on his Lordſhip to wiſh him a good Journey, and found him much better reconciled to his going than before——— Depending upon his Innocence being made out to the Satisfaction of the Government, and particularly his Lordſhip made it his Requeſt, I had rather call'd it, laid his Commands on me, that as I had advanc'd to the World,

that